"Libretto by Harry B. Smith?"



The Columbia enjoyed the most pros perous engagement of the week with the new musical comedy, "The Liberty Belles," which delighted a series of packed houses at the F Street playhouse. "The Last Appeal," which was the attraction at the National, did not receive the financial recognition which the merits of the play and the interpreting company to be one of the best constructed and ablest works this young dramatist has ever offered to the thestregoers of the Capital. The opening week of vaudeville at Chase's was so successful that Mr. Chase has every reason to believe that, unlike the amusement lovers of some cities. Washingtonians still have a fondness for succeeding bills are of uniform excellence Grand is in for a very profitable seathe Grand is in for a very profitable sea-son. The Academy put forward one of the most thrilling of popular priced melo-drams. Through the Breakers, which was first seed in Washington a year ago. The audiences that visited the Stair thea-tre during the week were both large and monarous demonstrative in their re-

good humor get him into as many scrapes as it is possible to be rescued from. Op-pertunities for his methods of fun-making

The Aendemy—"A Ragged Hero."

A new play of New Engiand life, entitled "A Ragged Hero." will give its intitled "A Ragged Hero." will give its intitled performances in this city at the Aendemy of Music this week. It is claimed for the new production that the story is original, the scenery handsome, and the company competent. Certain it is that the management has soared no expense in the presentation.

The story is founded on actual occurrences in the daily route, of life in a new England village. Most of the characters are recognized types. The piece contains a number of thrilling effects and climaxes which are said to possess the rare merit of novelly. The central figure of the span is an outcast whose life has been wrecked by a wife's unfaithfulness. While he is the typical tramp and induges in no end of anties and witticisms, the serious side of his story is never lost sight of. He has a faculty of bobbing up at the right moment, and his heroic deeds are an important factor in the development of the plot. He is not the comic paper type of "holo," however, but an unfortunate fellow, whose domestic troubles have driven him first to drink and then to the road. He is a going faults, bly wins his way into the hearts of his audiences. This, character will be portaryed and the profession of the farma is as follows: A wealthy farmer's profligate's step-brother who has always lived on the farm, and who is a sommambulist, emerges from the house walking in his sleep. The murderer sips the knile with while the crief or sign the knile with while the crief of the same and an auntor that he had a summambulist, emerges from the house walking in his sleep. The inurderer slips the knile with while the crief of the same had a sommambulist, emerges from the house walking in his sleep. The inurderer slips the knile with while the crief of the off and the captological and the high the captological and the captologic was first seed in Washington a year ago.
The audiences that visited the Stair theatre during the week were both large and uncommonly demonstrative in their reception of the play. The Bijou opened with the inaugural performance of the stock burlesque company that will tenant the stage of that theatre during the season. The reception accorded to the different members of the company was very cordial, while the performance was so distinctly good and away from the ordinary run of visiting burlesque that the patronage was excellent throughout the week. The Lyceum, with Harry Morris' "Twentieth Century Maids," pleased large gatherings and gave satisfactory performances.

The change of playbills this week will bring two musical attractions to the syndicate houses-Francis Wilson to the National and Anna Held to the Columbia.

Mr. Wilson will be seen in "The Strollers," in which the played at the Knickerbocker, Nyr. York, during the summer with a good lead of success Anna Heid will bring to the Luckett & Dwyer house her new h. a scal place. "The Little Duchess," which had a successful opening in Baltimore ast week. Manager Chase's offering will be Hoyt's "A Stranger in New York," with the principal members of the company that presented a number of Hoytian pleces at his theatre last spring. The Academy will seek patronage with a melodrama, "The Ragged Hero," while the Lyceum will offer "The Broadway Burlesquers," a combination popular with Washingtonians who attend burlesque performances. The stock company at the Bijou will present a briresque on "Arizona," and in present to spring house by the stock company at the Bijou will present a briresque on "Arizona," and in present to spring house by the stock of a child from the upper window of a burning house by the stock of a child from the upper window of a burning house by the seed of a child from the upper window of a burning house by the seed of a child from the upper window of a burning house by the seed of a child from the upper window of a burning house by the seed of a

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are several others of equal merit in the offo, which is well arranged.

The closing burlesque is annound the management as "a symposium light," in which the comedy is of

The management of the Bijou Theatre announces a very attractive programme for this week, for in addition to the regu as it is possible to be rescued from. Opportunities for his methods of fun-making
are said to abound most liberally, and it
is claimed that the comedian was never
funnier than in this production.

The company this season is the largest
Mr. Wilson has ever had, comprising 100
persons, with a chorus not only excellent
in appearance but splendidly voiced.
Among the principals are such favorites
as Eddie Foy, Marie George, Irone Bentley, and D. L. Don. Among the musical
numbers that have become popular are;
"Strellers We. and Our Life is Free.
"Little Paffy Pipe Dream," "Flirtation
Song," "Automobile Chorus," "I'm
Scenicilly the production is described as
one of gorgeous array, each set being a
starp picture of rare beauty, while the
cosuming shows an unusually beautiful
blending of colors in pretiese of designs.
Mr. Wilson will be seen here with the entire original company and production, intact in every detail.

The Arademy—"A Ragged Hero." lar offering of the Bijou stock burlesque The Academy-"A Ragged Hero."

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THE PASSING SHOW.

There are few theatregoers or readers of theatrical doings who have not observed this announcement on advertise-ments of most of the comic operas and musical comedies of native manufacture that have been given during the past decade Mr. Smith is commonly credited with being at the head of the Harry B. Smith Libretto Factory, where the laborers ofttimes work longer hours than the union rules permit of, especially when the American people are clamoring for some new amusement in the Smith line. There is no more beautiful sight in this com-mercial age than to see the laborers at the Smith Libretto Factory trudging to work every morning, bright and early with their dinner pails well stocked with the latest merry quips and plots and nice-ly polished "situations" that human in-genuity can devise. While the lyric lathes in the other factories that make a specialty of librettos are covered with rust and dust, the Smith concern is send-ing admirably turned lyrics to all parts of the world. Harry B. Smith was in Washington dur-

ing the greater part of heat week looking over the latest output of his weeks, "The Liberty Belles," which deligated large audiences at the Columbia by its origi-nality, splendid interpretation, and its commendable effort to break away from all the traditions that the American mu-sical comedy is surrounded with. Nobody sical comedy is surrounded with. Nobody who attended the performances of "The Liberty Belies" cared because Mr. Smith, after furnishing a decidedly novel and deftly handled first act, resorted to the same sources from which "Jane," "Lend Me Your Wife," and "Charley's Aunt" came from for the further development of his story. It was sufficient that he gave his audiences an entertainment that expenses. his audiences an entertainment that enthe most fascinating young women of the native stage and permitted a half the native stage and permitted a half dozen of the best known American composers to try their hands at contributing melodies, after the manner in vogue in England, where one man supplies the illibrette and any number of musicians furnish the songs. "The Liberty Belles" is the first of Mr. Smith's works in which he is interested beyond the collection of royalities, and naturally he shows more than ordinary interest in its future. The librettist was seated in the office of the Columbia Theatre, admiring Manager Luckett's desk, with its well-arranged and unique collection of press agents' bric-a-brac, when a Times interviewer enquired when he was going to quit writing all the musical pieces and give some ther person an opportunity to distinguish himself in this particular line of stage endeavor and incidentally enjoy the sensation of collecting royalities.

"Well, you see, as the comectan in the company would put it, I'm in sore need of the money," said Air, Smith. "It is true that this season I am getting royalities from 'The Liberty Belles, 'The Little Duchess,' Anna Held's new piece; The Strollers, which Francis Wilson is now using, 'Robin Hood,' The Strenade,' and 'The Viceroy,' of the Bostonians repertoire, and will soon add 'Mald Marian' to the list, 'Foxy Quiller,' 'The Casino Girl,' and one or two others. I have not yet attained my one ambition, which is to get enough money to ratire from the musical connedy and coard opera field and devote myself to the more serious side of the drama."

"But, after writing about all of the successful musical productions of the past ten or twelve years, surely you must have dozen of the best known American com-

stock burlesque company are endeavoring to provide their patrons with a really clever and cican performance. Emilie Beaupre, May Audobon, Nelle V Nichols, Lizzle Freligh, Bessie Phillips, John Rodgers, George Gale, Fred Cady, Charles Rice, Matt Kennedy, Lew Harvey, and the forty or so other members of the organization are said to haye roles in the "Arizona" burlesque that are very consciol.

The vaudeville portion of the bill will be given by Cushman Holcomb and Curtis, one of the most popular teams that ever played the big vaudeville circuit; Jules and Ella Garretson, travesty artists, who have descredly good reputations in this country and abroad; kittle Bingham, a singer of up-to-date songs; Esmeraled, who will furnish a refined musical act, and Rice and Cady, the German humorists, Matiness will be given daily.

NEXT WEEK'S ATTRACHONS.

National—Primrose & Dockstader.

The Primrose & Dockstader.

The Primrose & Dockstader American Minstrels will be seen here at the New Mational Theatre on Monday, October 7, and will add to its necord as heretofore, without doubt. It is one of the most reliable, amusing, and up-to-date entertainments of its kind now before the theatregoing public and, with its host of comedians, vocalists, and specialists may be justily considered one of the best paired, well equipped, and most expensive companies. Everything that is possible and probable to be incorporated in a pragramme is said to have been provided for in the offering of this company, until it would seem that nothing novel and amusing is to be further found-wish which to create surprise and laughter.

The Columbia—Frank Daniels.

No engagement is looked forward to

the effect of white messile. There may be two or three Oriental rugs, not too brilliant in color. In the matter of decorations of the room the stage manager is furnished with this explicit information:

Around the mirrors of the dressing tables and on the pier glass are bunches of theatre programmes and German favors. Silver toilet articles on the dressing tables. On tables and plano are photographa, framed. Some of these pottraits are to be of theatrical favorites. A hanging bookcase on the wall, filled with books and magazines. Music on the plano. At the side of the plano is a guitar. On the scat near the fireplace is a mandolin and leaning against the fireplace at R a golf bag and golf sticks. On the walls are several engravings of subjects such a young woman of refinement might select. These are in dark wood frames. Several inframed engravings on the wall. There are several rocking chairs and bedroom chairs of white wood. If any of these chairs are upholstered, flowered cretome should be used, and a similar material for the curtains and other draperies. Over the head of the bed at L foreground, is an electric light which can be turned on by a person lying in bed. At R and L of door C there are similar lights. There is a short bright overture, made up of most popular selections of the piece. The music for the rise of the curtain is to be in the style of a nocturne—to have the color of such a composition as Chopins. "Bereaue," which might be used, very delicately orchestrated.

Here once more does Mr. Smith come upon the scene as a shatterer of idols.

position as Chopin's "Beresuse," which might be used, very delicately orchestrated.

Here once more does Mr. Smith come upon the scene as a shatterer of idols. Almost everybody in the audience who saw blonde Edna Hunter turn on the electric light at the head of her bed and commence to peruse her Paul Bourget just as the curtain descended on the first act gave her all the credit for this very effective bit, but a disclosure of the arrangements for the furnishings of the stage brings to light the fact that Mr. Smith had previously thought out this effect and had planned for the electric illumination just as carefully as though he decided upon the style of music that would send up the first curtain of the piece. The further The Times man went into Mr. Smith's libretto the greater his admiration became for the stage writer who could remain in the background for so many years and caimly see others take the credit for his work. Still, as Mr. Smith admitted, royalties go a long way toward making one forget that some one else is getting praise for one's work. Even the curtance of the first player is as thoughtfully arranged as everything else in the general scheme of the production. This is the way Mr. Smith's play commences, according to the manuscript, and there is not the slightest deviation from his instruction in this nor in any of the arrangement of the stage, as will be readily recognized by everybody who saw the performance. The manuscript uses the technical word, "discovered." Then:

When the curtain rises the stage is almost in complete darkness. The C door opens and

manuscript uses the technical word, "discovered." Then:

When the curtain rises the stage is almost in complete darkness. The C door opens and there appears in the doorway Edith May, a tall, handsome gir, of seventeen or eighteen; she holds above her head a lighted candle, which is the only light apparent on the stage, except the faint moonly not from the two windows and red light from one grate, the latter only illuminating the section of the stage down R. Edith is dressed in a white nightgown or negligee wrapper, covering her from her throat to ankles. Her dark hair falls loosely over her shoulders. The instant that Edith appears, the orchestra musicatops and there is a moment of absolute silence. This must be an appreciable pause for the audience to realize the picture.

And as minute as are these directions

And as minute as are these directions for the proper dressing of the stage, so are the instructions for the different players throughout the three acts of "The Liberty Belles." Not a single person crosses the stage, sit down, utters a word or even sighs except when it is indicated in the manuscript that such action is necessary for the presentation of the play according to Mr. Smith's idea. And as the working of the various members of the company was so totally unlike the one-two-three cut and dried movements of the conventional production of similar type, instead of the stage manager getting all the credit for the perfection of the performance, Mr. Smith must come into his own and be handed a few years ago. We had had her was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We saw making friends very fast, too. We saw making triends very fast, too. We saw making triends very fast, too. We had she was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We had she was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was hown her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was known her all over this country and Europe, Billy is making friends very fast, too. We low was, Loo. We low on the low for the lords of washing friends very fast, too. We lave was, too. We law on wash, las friends very fast, too. We law o

barns in the fireplace, excling a red glow around that part of the roon, i. e., down stage R. The stage are papered with a decirate paper of white, with bunches of violets.

Thus are the honors of the production heractofore given to the seemic artist ruthlessly torn away and given to the librettist, whose brain has so carefully thought out the style of decoration. The arrange-relative the property man loses his credit, and once more Mr. Smith is showered with honors. Here are the instructions:

At L down stage is a smal, white and gold piano. This piano is much used during the stage districts and once of the very best makes, having a tone of good carrying quality. Four single brass bedsteads, placed two at R and two at L. The bed lines to be of white, very simple, girlish, and without display of lare. At L type stage is a large wardrobe, white, colonial design. This is to be large enough for two men to conceal themselves in it. It's stage, at convenient spaces are two dressing tables and one pior glass. These to be of white wood. Two small with the grant that the symbol that the symbol

Miss Chester and her trained dog proved one of the distinctly unique features of the bill at Chase's Theatre last week and the series of hunting pictures exhibited were worthy of the name. Pa-trons of the Chase house have been shown living pictures of many varieties and of more or less merit, but those offered by Miss Chester and her beautiful dog. Billy. were quite out of the ordinary and certainly deserved a higher piace on the bill than the one they occupied. Billy is a setter, with a pure white coat, as soft has decided to shelve the Irving piece in setter, with a pure white coat, as soft as silk. His great, bright eyes gleam kindly, and when a Times writer approached and patted him he offered his paw politely and then took up a stand where he could conveniently watch proceedings. As Billy's hospitality was limited to the aforesald paw-shake and he made no effort to enter into conversation with the interviewer, Miss Chester graciously assumed the duties of host and apologized for Billy's rudeness.

"We have just returned from a three years' tour of Great Britain and the Confide."

went back. I said: 'I am Miss Hassett, Mr. Harris. Did you get my note?'

"I did,' he said, 'but I don't understand it.'

"Did you rend it?' I asked.

"Yes,' he replied.

"Then you understand,' I blurted out. Then you understand,' I blurted out. The gave me an incredulous stare for a minute and then said. Til talk to you in five minutes."

"Weil, I took the part away with me and as you see, I have it yet. If there's a career waiting for me, Mr. Harris will engineer it.

"Why did I adopt the stage? Because I felt that I must do zomething and I had more excuse for a dramatic career than for anything else. I cannet understand women who are satisfied to lead a purposeless existence. To my mind it seems like placing a low estimate on life. Do you know what you newspaper people do? You invite exotism. You come along with pretty speeches and bright smiles and turn our heads. Here I've been rattling away at a fearful rate and all about my-self. Just what you wanted? Well, you're very good to say so, and I'm sorry that I couldn't give you something more interesting to write about, but I'm only a year old, you must remember—an uninteresting age. That shall be my excuse."

Contrary to first reports, "Champagne Charlie," the new farce in which Peter F. Dailey, the rotund funmaker, is star-ring, is not the great success that was ring, is not the great success that was looked for. The news of the opening at Boston said the comedian had finally been nitted with a piece much to his liking, but the audiences that witnessed the performances during the opening week showed a tendency to deride the work of Playwright Thomas, while a number of the Boston papers severely criticised the piece.

Since the premiere "Champagne Charlie" has been in the hands of the blue penciler with results that are said to be very gratifying. Mr. Dailey continues to have the valuable aid of Christie MacDonald, who, notwithstanding her recent marriage to young William Winter Jefferson, has decided not to retire from the stage for the present at least.

Hans Robert, of this city, who was a member of the musical comedy company at the Columbia last June, and who later appeared with the Lafayette stock com-pany, is a prominent member of the "Florodora" company now touring the Western States.

Gotham has not taken to "Richard

ceedings. As Billy's hospitality was limited to the aforesaid pas-blake and he made no effort to enter into conversation with the interviewer, Miss Chester gradously assumed the duties of host and apologized for Billy's rudeness at three years with the interviewer. Miss Chester gradously assumed the duties of host and apologized for Billy's rudeness. A three years with the interviewer and the content and will go back to England next August for an indefinite engagement. Yes, Billy is a great dog, and, naturally, is very much spolled. He is five years old, and has been working for three seasons, so I suppose he dhand. We were raised to be a supposed to the methods of a great many trainers, it required a tremendous amount of particular to the methods of a great many trainers, and the results are never certain. Kindness never fails to win at all times, and if the dog for the master it's a pretty sure thing that the master may relevon the dog. The sure of the particular that he had before Billy made his department of time each pose is held. Billy knows what to do so well that we haven't the slightest difficulty with him. He helps himself and never moves until the signal is given. He has never been out. The dog which we had before Billy made his department of the well and her for twelve years ago. We had had her for